

THALASCARIS BATE, 1878 (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA): REQUEST FOR SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1928

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In 1878, in a paper entitled "On the *Willemoesia* Group of Crustacea" C. Spence Bate (1878, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (5) 2 : 282), when discussing the reduced eyes in the species of the genus *Willemoesia* remarked: "That the depauperized state of the organs of vision is not due to loss of light from the great depth at which *Willemoesia* is taken is evident from the fact that *Thalascaris*, n.g. (Crangonidae), is taken at depths equally great, and is remarkable for the large size of its eyes". This is, so far as I know the only mention of the generic name *Thalascaris* in the literature. It was published in such an obscure and casual fashion that it even escaped the attention of nomenclators and is, e.g. not mentioned in Neaves' *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. However, the name *Thalascaris* is validly published and is an available name. So far no nominal species have been referred to it.

Bate's 1878 publication was one of the shorter notes on Challenger Decapoda Macrura, which he wrote before publishing in 1888 his voluminous report on the Challenger collection of these animals. In this Challenger report Bate (1888, *Rep. Voy. Challenger, Zool.*, 24) did not mention at all the generic name *Thalascaris*, and there is evidence that in 1888 Bate used the generic name *Glyphocrangon* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, for that genus; Bate (1888) himself evidently did not consider *Thalascaris* validly published. None of the Crangonidae mentioned by Bate in his Challenger report fit his 1878 definition of *Thalascaris*: only two species of *Pontophilus*, viz. *P. gracilis* Bate (1100–2150 fm.) and *P. profundus* Bate (2600 fm.) live at the depths (1375 and 1900 fathoms) indicated by Bate (1878) for *Willemoesia*. However, of *P. gracilis* Bate (1888 : 489) stated in his description "The ophthalmopoda are not large, being well hidden within the orbital cavity", and of *P. profundus* (: 490). "The ophthalmi are ovate and tolerably large and prominent". However in the diagnosis of *Glyphocrangon*, a genus which after its discovery was at first assigned to the Crangonidae, but later was split off, Bate (1888 : 505) stated: "The ophthalmopoda are short and support large and globular ophthalmi". The species of *Glyphocrangon* were reported by Bate from depths between 200 and 1875 fathoms. That Bate (1878) with *Thalascaris* actually meant *Glyphocrangon* is finally shown by the fact that under *Glyphocrangon rimapes* Bate, he remarked (Bate, 1888 : 525): "The type of this species was brought up by the trawl in the same locality in the South Atlantic (Station 133) at which *Willemoesia leptodactyla* was obtained, and it is worthy of remark that while in the last-named genus the organs of vision are reduced to a rudimentary condition, those of *Glyphocrangon* are unusually large", a sentence too remarkably alike to that cited in the first paragraph of the present paper not to be inspired by the same material. *Glyphocrangon rimapes* Bate, 1888, may therefore be considered the type-species of *Thalascaris* Bate, 1878. *Glyphocrangon* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, thus being a junior subjective synonym of *Thalascaris* Bate, 1878.

Although *Glyphocrangon* is a deep sea genus without commercial importance, and thus the literature pertaining to it is rather small, the genus is reasonably well known: it is the type of the monotypic family Glyphocrangonidae and at present contains about 35 known species. The name *Glyphocrangon* has been uninterruptedly used for this genus since 1884 and has been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as name no. 1120 by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in their Opinion 470 (1957, *Opin. Decl. Int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.*, **16** (9) : 136). The name *Thalascaris*, as already remarked above, has, so far as I know, not been used a single time since its original publication. Another drawback to this name is that it is so similar to the generic name *Thalassocaris* Stimpson, 1860, which also is given to a genus of Caridean prawns; therefore a possible confusion is not precluded if the two were to exist side by side.

As nothing is gained by the strict application of the Rules in this case, the Commission is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the generic name *Thalascaris* Bate (1878, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (5) **2** : 282), type-species by present designation: *Glyphocrangon rimapes* Bate (1888, *Rep. Voy. Challenger*, Zool., **24** : 523); gender feminine.

- (2) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology the name *Thalascaris* Bate, 1878, as suppressed under (1) above.

Since the names *Glyphocrangon* and Glyphocrangonidae are already placed on their respective Official Lists in Opinion 470, no action has to be taken in regard to them. Also the name *Thalassocaris* Stimpson, 1860, figures already on the Official List.